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| 10/632,957 | 08/04/2003 | Yoshiyuki Namizuka | 240759US2 | 4483 |

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| EXAMINER | |
|---|---|
| DICKERSON, CHAD S | |

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**Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.**

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Notice of the Office communication was sent electronically on above-indicated "Notification Date" to the following e-mail address(es):

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## DETAILED ACTION

### *Response to Arguments*

1. Applicant's arguments filed 7/2/2008 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

In the Amendment filed 7/2/2008, the Applicant asserts that the main reference of Kobayashi '194 in combination with Namizuka '643 does not disclose the claim limitations of the newly added claim features to the independent claims. More specifically, the Applicant contends that the above references does not disclose a device containing an expansion control device configured to allocate the image reading or the image forming device to a job. The Examiner respectfully disagrees with this assertion.

According to Applicant's remarks, the additionally attachable expansion unit contains a control device (e.g. a CPU) that is configured to allocate the image forming device or image reading device to a job (see pages 15-17). The expansion unit connecting device is configured to connect the additionally attachable expansion unit. When reviewing the arguments and claims, the Examiner noted the UARTs and the external apparatuses connected to the UARTs. The UARTs are considered as the expansion unit connecting devices since these devices are used to connect the external devices to the main image forming apparatus (see paragraphs [0002]-[0008] and [0013]-[0020] or Kobayashi). The additionally attachable expansion device is considered as the external device used to connect to the image forming apparatus through the UART(s). This external device can be used to control the basic functions of

the copier because of the control data the external device possess and the function of the control pass change section, which changes control of the image forming apparatus between the main CPU and the external device's control mechanism. Since the external device can use control data to control the processes of the image forming apparatus and add functions related to the external device to the image forming apparatus, it is clear that the external device can assign, or allocate, resources of the image forming apparatus by either using it for a printing operation or controlling the apparatus for a printing operation (see paragraphs [0017]-[0024] of Kobayashi). Also, since the external device can be used to control the image forming apparatus that it is connected to through the UART, it must have some type of CPU, or expansion control device, to not only control the external device's function, but the functions of the image forming apparatus that it is connected to. Therefore, the function of having an expansion control device configured to allocate the image reading apparatus or image forming apparatus to a job is performed.

The Applicant also asserts that the main reference fails to disclose the feature to further connect to at least one function adding unit, which adds at least one function to the image forming apparatus under control of the expansion control device. The again respectfully disagrees with this assertion.

It is clear that the external device is used to add a feature or function to the image forming apparatus it is connected to. The very reason of adding an external device is to add a feature or function to the image forming apparatus. In paragraph [0017], the translation states contacting a fax, scan or printer unit. On page 16, during

the section labeled "(2) When selecting fax function, printer function, scanner function", this section clearly discloses choosing the functions and these functions are used to expand the image forming apparatus (see paragraphs [0019] and [0022] regarding the statement of expanding features of Kobayashi). As mentioned in earlier, since the external devices have the ability to control the image forming apparatus, it is clear that some type of control device is used to perform control over the external device and the function of the external device controlling the image forming apparatus (see paragraph [0024]). Therefore, with the above explanation, the Examiner believes that the above feature is performed.

In regards to the feature of "between the process controller and the at least one function adding unit", the reference of Kobayashi contains a main CPU and an external device that can perform control over itself and the image forming apparatus. The main CPU can control the functions of itself when it operates on its own. The reference of Namizuka '643, was used to also have external device connected to the image forming apparatus through a mother board. However, the externally connected devices clearly contain a controller that introduces a function to the system and the image forming apparatus contains its own system controller, which functions as the process controller. In the secondary reference, a CPU in the externally connected devices that offer additional functions is clearly disclosed and a CPU that controls the basic functions of the overall copier is also clearly disclosed. The process of having the reference of Kobayashi disclose an externally connected device that introduces a new feature to the system along with being able to control different aspects of the copier with the external

device and having the main CPU of the copier control the overall functions of the device combined with the reference of Namizuka '643 that contains external devices with clearly defined controllers that interact with the MFP (100) (see Namizuka '643 paragraphs [0007]-[0012] and [0072]-[0075]), the above feature of having an external control device allocate resources of a copier between the process controller and the at least one function adding unit is performed.

***Conclusion***

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to CHAD DICKERSON whose telephone number is (571)270-1351. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon. thru Thur. 9:00-6:30 Fri. 9:00-5:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Twyler Haskins can be reached on (571)-272-7406. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

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